



March 8, 2023  
Chair Courtney Neron  
House Committee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Testimony in support of HB3204 and -1 amendments**

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Wright and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments to the committee. My name is Tricia Powell. I live in Roseburg. I'm the parent of a virtual public charter school student and the President of the [Oregon Virtual Public Schools Alliance](http://oregonvirtualschools.org), a coalition of parents who have joined together to advocate for our education choice. I'm submitting comments in support of HB3204 and the -1 amendments which propose administrative changes to the 3% enrollment cap on virtual public charter schools.

In 2011, the Oregon State Legislature placed a cap of 3% on the number of kids in a school district that can transfer to full-time virtual public charter schools. As more families are seeking enrollment in virtual schools, school districts across the state are hitting the 3% cap and denying students enrollment in the school of their choice.

There is currently no uniform timeframe for when school districts submit their student enrollment count or how they calculate their enrollment. Since this process determines if a district has hit the 3% enrollment cap and ultimately decides if students in a district are eligible to enroll in a virtual public charter school, there needs to be consistency across all school districts. While we would like to see the enrollment cap raised or removed, the administrative changes in HB3204 and the -1 amendments related to count dates, appeal notifications and students who are currently enrolled in a virtual public charter school but move to a capped district, are an important first step in leveling the playing field to ensure fairness for families who are seeking to enroll their students in a virtual public charter school.

We urge the committee to pass HB3204 and the -1 amendments so more families have access to a virtual public charter school option.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tricia F. Powell".

Tricia Powell  
President

PO Box 1652, Lake Oswego OR 97035  
866.961.3731  
[info@oregonvirtualschools.org](mailto:info@oregonvirtualschools.org)